

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 000600-040

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 28-30 have been cancelled as being directed to non-elected inventions. New claim 31 has been added. Claim 31 is similar to claim 1 in many respects, and further specifically recites a glued laminated beam and that the gaseous substance can be emitted from the exposed glue line.

The Examiner has cited Canon (US 4,376,807) as a primary reference. Canon teaches a method of treating one side of a panel with an ammonium salt solution in order to reduce the emission of formaldehyde. It is clear that the face side of the panel is treated, not an edge having a glue line. See, for example, col.2, lines 57-61, col.3, lines 17-19, col.4, lines 29-31, and FIG. 2. In Canon, the formaldehyde diffuses through the wooden layers. However, there is no discussion in Canon of reducing emissions from a side having an exposed glue line. Hence one skilled in the art would receive no guidance from this reference on how to reduce glue line emissions.

In view of the above, Canon, either alone or in combination with Rohringer et al, fails to render obvious the invention as claimed. As to the "admitted" prior art, applicants further note that such "admitted" prior art is silent as to treating one or more planed sides *having glue lines exposed*.

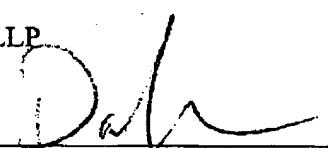
Applicants therefore respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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